

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-01 OMB-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ABF-01 OIC-02 /140 W

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P 151725Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5190

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPEHNAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

REF: STATE 241095

1. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED IFAD WITH MME. VERVALCKE OF

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BELGIAN OFFICE DE LA COOPERATION AU DEVELOPPMENT. MME.

VERVALCKE, WHO WILL REPRESENT BELIUM AT OCTOBER 16 DAC MEETING, EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH POINTS MADE REFTEL. PRIMARY BELGIAN RESERVATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. WEIGHTED VOTING. MME. VERVALCKE MADE POINT TOUCHED ON IN LONDON 15656 REGARDING POSSIBLE VOTING FORMULA TO ACCOMMODATE SMALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO THIS CONCEPT, EACH CONTRIBUTOR WOULD HAVE BASIC AND EQUAL ALLOCATION, TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY ADDITIONAL VOTING WEIGHT ACCORDING TO CONTRIBUTION. OBJECTIVE WOULD BE THAT SMALL DONOR DC'S BE ASSURED OF MORE VOTING POWER THAN INDIVIDUAL LDC'S IN GROUP C UNDER THEIR LIKELY ONE MAN-MAN VOTE ARRANGEMENT. VERVALCKE SAID THAT WITHOUT SOME SUCH ARRANGEMENT GOB WOULD HAVE GEREAT DIFFICULTY OBTAINING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR IFAD PARTICIPATION. SHE SAID THAT SHE DISCUSSED THESE POINTS WITH USDEL AT WORKING GROUP MEETING IN GENEVA LAST MONTH.

3. GRANT CRITERIA. BELGIANS ALSO UNHAPPY WITH 8 PERCENT LIMIT FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE STIPULATED IN DRAFT ARTICLES. VERVALCKE SAID PERCNETAGE UNREALISTICALLY LOW. IT SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, SHE BELIEVES, LIKELY NEED FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE TO SOME LDC'S OUTSIDE LEAST DEVELOPED GROUP (I.E., GENERALLY COUNTRIES WITH LESS THAN \$200 ANNUAL PER CAPITA INCOME), IN VIEW OF GROWING DEBT PROBLEM OF MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES.

4. MEMBERSHIP. BELGIAN QUESTION WISDOM OF OPPOSING EC MEMBER STATES JOINING IFAD ON THEIR OWN AS WELL AS EC MEMBERSHIP, SINCE LATTER MIGHT INCREASE OVERALL EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION. SHE COMMENTED THAT BELGIUM WOULD PREFER TO ENTER UNDER EC UMBRELLA (FOR ONE THING, THIS WOULD PROBABLY MEAN A LARGER BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION), BUT IS PREPARED TO JOIN INDIVIDUALLY IF DIFFERENCES WITHIN EC DELAY ITS ENTRY.

5. BELGIAN PLEDGE. FINALLY, VERVALCKE SAID IT MUCH TOO EARLY FOR GOB ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME. PROPOSED CNTRBUTION IS IN FY-76 BELGIAN BUDGET, WHICH JUST BEING SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT THIS WEEK. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL THUS HAVE TO AWAIT BUDGET APPROVAL LATER THIS YEAR. FIRESTONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, VOTING, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE09247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750357-1029
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751053/aaaabuoi.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 241095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)
TAGS: EAID, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006